

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants respectfully request approval of the following drawing changes. Figure 1 is being amended to properly identify the components in accordance with the specification. Specifically, Figure 1 is being amended to remove the lowermost instance of numeral 24 from the Figure. Applicants hereby submit a Replacement Sheet incorporating the changes to Figure 1. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 9, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-11 and 13-21 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-16 stand rejected. Claims 17-20 have been withdrawn. Claim 12 has been cancelled. Claim 21 is newly added.

Applicants note the objections to the drawings. Submitted herewith is a Replacement Sheet including an amended Figure 1. Specifically, Applicants have removed the lowermost instance of numeral 24 from Figure 1, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request approval of the indicated drawing change. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 6 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully traversed. Applicants have amended Claim 6 to address the Section 112 rejection. Claim 12 has been cancelled. Claims 13-15 have been amended to depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 6 and 12-15 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,258,227 to Skinner (hereinafter referred to as "Skinner") is respectfully traversed.

Skinner describes an agitator (24) for a washing machine. The agitator (24) includes a hub (25) positioned around a carrier hub (5). A vertical shaft (32) is positioned within carrier hub (5). The upper end of the agitator hub is provided with a socket (30) for a drive nut (31) fixed on the upper end of vertical shaft (32). A sleeve (60) is slidably positioned between the agitator hub (25) and the carrier hub (5) and is provided with upwardly extending tabs (63) slidably extending through slots (64) in the agitator drive nut (31). The

upper ends of the tabs (63) are fixed to a nut (65) clamped to the underside of a cap (66), and the cap (66) depends around the upper end of the agitator hub (25).

Claim 1 recites a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission wherein the hub assembly includes “a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of said brake hub; and an isolator insert comprising a plurality of legs, said isolator insert positioned at least partially within said brake hub opening, each leg of said plurality of legs configured to extend through said opening and between adjacent ribs of said plurality of ribs with said isolator insert inserted into said brake hub.”

Skinner does not describe or suggest a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission, as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Skinner does not describe or suggest a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, wherein a plurality of ribs extend radially inward from an interior surface of the brake hub, as required by Applicants’ claimed invention. Further, Skinner does not describe or suggest an isolator insert comprising a plurality of legs, wherein the isolator insert is positioned at least partially within the brake hub opening and wherein each leg of said plurality of legs is configured to extend through the opening and between adjacent ribs of the plurality of ribs with the isolator insert inserted into the brake hub. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Skinner describes an agitator for a washing machine including an agitator hub and a drive nut wherein tabs that extend from a sleeve and through slots in the agitator nut drive are fixed to a nut clamped to the underside of a cap.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Skinner.

Claims 2, 3, and 5 depend directly from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2, 3, and 5 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2, 3, and 5 likewise are patentable over Skinner.

Claim 7 recites a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission wherein the hub assembly includes “a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, and a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of said brake hub; an input shaft defining a plurality of grooves within an exterior surface of said input shaft, with said input shaft positioned within said opening, each groove of said plurality of grooves configured to receive a corresponding rib of said plurality of ribs, at least a portion of said corresponding rib contacting a surface defining said groove; and an isolator insert comprising a plurality of resilient legs, each leg of said plurality of legs extending at least partially into said brake hub opening between said brake hub and said input shaft and between adjacent ribs of said plurality of ribs.”

Skinner does not describe or suggest a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission, as recited in Claim 7. More specifically, Skinner does not describe or suggest a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, and a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of the brake hub. Further, Skinner does not describe or suggest an input shaft defining a plurality of grooves within an exterior surface of the input shaft, wherein with the input shaft positioned within the opening each groove of the plurality of grooves is configured to receive a corresponding rib of the plurality of ribs, and at least a portion of the corresponding rib contacts a surface defining the groove. Moreover, Skinner does not describe or suggest an isolator insert comprising a plurality of resilient legs, wherein each leg of the plurality of legs extends at least partially into the brake hub opening between the brake hub and the input shaft and between adjacent ribs of the plurality of ribs. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Skinner describes an agitator for a washing machine including an agitator hub and a drive nut wherein tabs that extend from a sleeve and through slots in the agitator nut drive are fixed to a nut clamped to the underside of a cap.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Skinner.

Claims 10 and 11 depend directly from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 10 and 11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 10 and 11 likewise are patentable over Skinner.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10, and 11 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,183,230 to Beardmore (hereinafter referred to as “Beardmore”) is respectfully traversed.

Beardmore describes an oil pump drive assembly (10) for an internal combustion engine. The drive assembly (10) includes a course splined hub (16) that has male splines (18) extending about the outer perimeter thereof. As shown in Figure 3, male splines (18) extending from hub (16) create grooves within the exterior surface of hub (16). The oil pump (14) includes a pump body (22) that houses a gerotor pump set (28) which includes a pump rotor (30) and a pumping annulus (40). The pump rotor (30) receives the splined hub (16). A splined isolator ring (42) is positioned between the pump rotor (30) and the splined hub (16). As shown in Figure 6, the outer periphery of the isolator ring (42) is defined by radial walls (44) and arc walls (46) that extend between the radial walls, which compliment radially extending faces (34) and arc faces (36) of the pump rotor (30) for slip fit meshing engagement therewith. Notably, Beardmore does not describe or suggest a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, and a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of the brake hub. Moreover, Beardmore does not describe or suggest an isolator insert comprising a plurality of legs, wherein the isolator insert is positioned at least partially within the brake hub opening and each leg is configured to extend through the opening and between adjacent ribs with the isolator insert inserted into the brake hub.

Claim 1 recites a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission wherein the hub assembly includes “a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of said brake hub; and an isolator insert

comprising a plurality of legs, said isolator insert positioned at least partially within said brake hub opening, each leg of said plurality of legs configured to extend through said opening and between adjacent ribs of said plurality of ribs with said isolator insert inserted into said brake hub.”

Beardmore does not describe or suggest a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission, as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Beardmore does not describe or suggest a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, and a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of the brake hub. Further, Beardmore does not describe or suggest an isolator insert comprising a plurality of legs, wherein the isolator insert is positioned at least partially within the brake hub opening and wherein each leg of the plurality of legs is configured to extend through the opening and between adjacent ribs of the plurality of ribs with the isolator insert inserted into the brake hub. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Beardmore describes an oil pump drive assembly that includes a pump rotor and an isolator ring. The outer periphery of the isolator ring is defined by radial walls and arc walls that extend between the radial walls, which compliment radially extending faces and arc faces of the pump rotor for slip fit meshing engagement therewith.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Beardmore.

Claims 2-4 and 6 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-4 and 6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-4 and 6 likewise are patentable over Beardmore.

Claim 7 recites a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission wherein the hub assembly includes “a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, and a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of said brake hub; an input shaft defining a plurality of grooves within an exterior surface of said input shaft, with said input shaft positioned within said opening, each groove of said plurality of grooves configured to receive a corresponding rib of said plurality of ribs, at least a portion of said corresponding rib

contacting a surface defining said groove; and an isolator insert comprising a plurality of resilient legs, each leg of said plurality of legs extending at least partially into said brake hub opening between said brake hub and said input shaft and between adjacent ribs of said plurality of ribs.”

Beardmore does not describe or suggest a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission, as recited in Claim 7. More specifically, Beardmore does not describe or suggest a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, and a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of the brake hub. Further, Beardmore does not describe or suggest an input shaft defining a plurality of grooves within an exterior surface of the input shaft, wherein with the input shaft positioned within the opening each groove of the plurality of grooves is configured to receive a corresponding rib of the plurality of ribs, and at least a portion of the corresponding rib contacts a surface defining the groove. Moreover, Beardmore does not describe or suggest an isolator insert comprising a plurality of resilient legs, wherein each leg of the plurality of legs extends at least partially into the brake hub opening between the brake hub and the input shaft and between adjacent ribs of the plurality of ribs. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Beardmore describes an oil pump drive assembly that includes a pump rotor and an isolator ring. The outer periphery of the isolator ring is defined by radial walls and arc walls that extend between the radial walls, which compliment radially extending faces and arc faces of the pump rotor for slip fit meshing engagement therewith.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Beardmore.

Claim 12 has been cancelled. Claims 8-10 and 13-16 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-10 and 13-16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 8-10 and 13-16 likewise are patentable over Beardmore.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 4, 9, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skinner is respectfully traversed.

Skinner is described above.

Skinner does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. Specifically, Claim 1 recites a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission wherein the hub assembly includes “a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of said brake hub; and an isolator insert comprising a plurality of legs, said isolator insert positioned at least partially within said brake hub opening, each leg of said plurality of legs configured to extend through said opening and between adjacent ribs of said plurality of ribs with said isolator insert inserted into said brake hub.”

Skinner does not describe or suggest a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission, as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Skinner does not describe or suggest brake hub defining an opening therethrough, and a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of the brake hub. Further, Skinner does not describe or suggest an isolator insert comprising a plurality of legs, wherein the isolator insert is positioned at least partially within the brake hub opening and wherein each leg of the plurality of legs is configured to extend through the opening and between adjacent ribs of the plurality of ribs with the isolator insert inserted into the brake hub. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Skinner describes an agitator for a washing machine including an agitator hub and a drive nut wherein tabs that extend from a sleeve and through slots in the agitator nut drive are fixed to a nut clamped to the underside of a cap.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Skinner.

Claim 4 depends indirectly from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 4 likewise is patentable over Skinner.

Claim 7 recites a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission wherein the hub assembly includes “a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, and a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of said brake hub; an input shaft defining a plurality of grooves within an exterior surface of said input shaft, with said input shaft positioned within said opening, each groove of said plurality of grooves configured to receive a corresponding rib of said plurality of ribs, at least a portion of said corresponding rib contacting a surface defining said groove; and an isolator insert comprising a plurality of resilient legs, each leg of said plurality of legs extending at least partially into said brake hub opening between said brake hub and said input shaft and between adjacent ribs of said plurality of ribs.”

Skinner does not describe or suggest a hub assembly for a washing machine transmission, as recited in Claim 7. More specifically, Skinner does not describe or suggest a brake hub defining an opening therethrough, and a plurality of ribs extending radially inward from an interior surface of the brake hub. Further, Skinner does not describe or suggest an input shaft defining a plurality of grooves within an exterior surface of the input shaft, wherein with the input shaft positioned within the opening each groove of the plurality of grooves is configured to receive a corresponding rib of the plurality of ribs, and at least a portion of the corresponding rib contacts a surface defining the groove. Moreover, Skinner does not describe or suggest an isolator insert comprising a plurality of resilient legs, wherein each leg of the plurality of legs extends at least partially into the brake hub opening between the brake hub and the input shaft and between adjacent ribs of the plurality of ribs. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Skinner describes an agitator for a washing machine including an agitator hub and a drive nut wherein tabs that extend from a sleeve and through slots in the agitator nut drive are fixed to a nut clamped to the underside of a cap.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Skinner.

Claims 9 and 16 depend directly from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 9 and 16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 9 and 16 likewise is patentable over Skinner.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4, 9, and 16 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric T. Krischke
Registration No. 42,769
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070